(c) the steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Assam have informed that instructions have been issued to the enforcement machinery looking after the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, for timely statutory intervention as and when labour disputes in tea gardens on bonus issues come to their notice.

In the 55th Session of the State level Standing Committee for Plantation Workers held on 30th July '03, the bonus issue was discussed as one of the agenda items. The employers were requested to make the audited balance sheet available to the State Government by 31st August '03 so as to enable them to do the needful. The State Government of Assam has also constituted a high level Bonus Committee for hearing and quick disposal of bonus disputes.

Wage disparity

†*260. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that equal pay is not given for equal work to the female workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the persons contravening the law of equal pay for equal work;

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which extends to the whole of India, provides for equal remuneration to women for the same work or work of a similar nature.

(c) to (e) Action can be initiated under the above Act in all cases where the law as laid down in Act is violated. In the Central sphere the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

enforcement of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 is entrusted to the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) who heads the Central Industry Relations Machinery (CIRM). The Central Government has appointed Labour Enforcement Officers as Inspectors for the purpose of making investigation as to whether the provisions of the equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are being compiled with by the employers. In the case of employments where the State Government are appropriate authorities, the enforcement of the provisions of the E.R. Act, 1976 is done by the officials of the State Labour Department. The consolidated enforcement figures in respect of Central and State Spheres are indicated in the Statement.

Statement

Position of implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Spheres	Inspection	Violations Detected	Violation Rectified	Prosecutions Launched	Convictions	Acquittals
State/UTS						
1996*	15315	2145	17	260	173	—
1997*	18716	1869	169	243	158	—
1998*	27086	2707	406	264	111	—
1999*	19155	2134	566	85	92	—
2000*	23832	1872	927	164	113	—
Central						
1997*	4195	4722	4223	1144	537	39
1998*	4056	4115	3879	1086	450	24
1998-99*	3968	3935	3981	968	500	10
1999-2000*	2431	2652	2367	394	196	6
2001-02	4606	4697	3858	643	489	9
2002-03	3896	3926	3430	810	428	—

*Provisional